# **Psychology Internship Program**



Durham VA Medical Center
Director, Psychology Training Programs
Psychology Service (116B)
MHSL
508 Fulton Street
Durham, N.C. 27705

(919) 286-6934 http://www.durham.va.gov/

MATCH Number: 141411
Applications due: November 5, 2015

# Accreditation Status

The predoctoral internship at the **Durham VA Medical Center** is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. The next site visit will be during the academic year **2016**.

# Application & Selection Procedures

# **Eligibility**

A candidate for the Durham VA Medical Center Psychology Internship Program must be a U.S. citizen enrolled in an APA-accredited clinical or counseling psychology graduate program. Candidates must be approved by their graduate program's Director of Training as ready for internship, and preferably will have only minor dissertation requirements remaining. Graduate programs must receive APA accreditation prior to January 1, 2016. At least 500 hours of direct (AAPI – 400 Intervention / 100 Assessment) and 500 hours of indirect practicum experience are required. Preference is typically given to candidates who have supervised assessment and therapy experience with a range of psychopathology across varied populations and settings, as well as supervised training in objective psychological and neuropsychological test interpretation. Preference is also given to candidates whose training has included both quality clinical experiences and a thorough grounding in research design and application. Minority applicants and those with interests and expertise in minority issues are encouraged to apply.

#### **Application Procedures**

The Internship application process is now online. To submit an application, please go to the APPIC website (<a href="www.appic.org">www.appic.org</a>) for instructions on how to complete the online APPIC Application for Psychology Internships (AAPI). Interested individuals who meet eligibility criteria should submit the following application materials:

- A cover letter indicating interests
- APPIC Online Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Official graduate transcript(s)
- Three letters of reference (addressing clinical and research work)

Instructions and forms for the Applicant Agreement form required for the Match from the National Matching Program may be downloaded at web site at <a href="www.natmatch.com/psychint">www.natmatch.com/psychint</a>. Applicants who cannot access the web site should contact National Matching Service (NMS) directly to request instructions and registration forms.

The deadline for submission of application materials is **November 5, 2015**. (*Clarification*: In practical terms, applications should be complete *before 8:00am* (Eastern) on November 6, 2015.)

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE OR CALL

### R. Keith Shaw, Ph.D.

Director, Psychology Training Programs Re: Internship Application Materials VA Medical Center MHSL Psychology Service (116B) 508 Fulton Street Durham, N.C. 27705

Phone: (919) 286-0411, ext. 2161

\*Email: Keith.Shaw@va.gov (\*best method of contact)

The Durham VAMC Predoctoral Internship Program is accredited by the American Psychological Association. For information regarding APA accreditation of this internship or other accredited internships, please write or call:

Office of Program Consultation & Accreditation American Psychological Association

750 First Street NE Washington, DC 20002-4242 202-336-5979 www.apa.org

**APPIC Membership & Match**: As a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC), the Durham VAMC internship participates in the computer matching program and adheres to all APPIC policies.

APPIC Program Code number: 141411

# Interviews

- ➤ Top candidates (i.e., approximately 55) will be invited for personal interviews to take place on one of these four dates: **December 8**<sup>th</sup> / **9**<sup>th</sup>, 2015 *or* **January 13**<sup>th</sup>/ **19**<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Personal interviews are strongly encouraged. It has been our experience that in-person interviews are superior in terms of providing applicants opportunities to learn about our site and the program we offer. Please be sure to indicate a daytime telephone number in your application materials so you can be reached to schedule an interview. Inquiries may be made via e-mail at Keith.Shaw@va.gov.
- Applicants not selected to interview will receive notification by electronic mail no later than COB, December 1, 2015. Individuals not interviewed will not be considered for selection through the Match.

#### Selection

The Durham VA Psychology Internship Program is a member of APPIC and complies with all APPIC guidelines in the recruitment and selection of interns, and participates in the NMS Match program. We abide by the APPIC policy that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept or use any ranking-related information from any Internship applicant. A complete copy of APPIC policies and the computer matching program can be found at the APPIC website, <a href="http://www.appic.org/">http://www.appic.org/</a>.

Successful candidates who match with the Durham VAMC Internship will be contacted by phone and e-mail, as part of discussions regarding rotation assignments. **For 2016 – 2017**, the Internship Program training year begins on **August 8, 2016**.

Thank you for your interest in our program. We look forward to reviewing your application – and learning more about your goals.

# **Psychology Setting**

# **Program Description**

The Durham VA Medical Center Psychology Internship Program provides a one-year, full-time training experience for clinical and counseling psychology doctoral students from APA-accredited programs. The program provides broad-based, generalist training in clinical assessment, psychotherapy, consultation, research/scholarly inquiry, and clinical supervision.



The Psychology Internship Program has been in existence for more than 40 years and is accredited by the American Psychological Association. Our program adheres to a scientist-practitioner philosophy of training. Psychology faculty take seriously their obligation to contribute to the development of well-rounded, competent clinical psychologists prepared for the independent practice of psychology. Many faculty members have joint academic appointments at our primary affiliate, Duke University Medical Center, as well as other nearby academic institutions (e.g., UNC-Chapel Hill). The Durham VAMC also has several opportunities for post-doctoral psychology training.

The Psychology training staff is supportive, highly available for consultation, and sincerely interested in interns' professional development. This setting provides the intellectual stimulation associated with a university teaching hospital providing state-of-the-art clinical care and health care research delivered in a region filled with a variety of recreational and cultural opportunities.

# Training Model and Program Philosophy

Our program follows the scientist-practitioner philosophy of training. We provide training in and encourage use of evidence-based psychological practice. Our developmental training model emphasizes the progression from graduate student to professional ready for entry-level independent practice in psychology. The primary focus of the internship year is graduated experiential learning. Competencies in professional practice are developed through clinical practice, supervision, didactic training and mentorship. Delivery of patient care is secondary to the educational mission of the internship. Interns play an important role in selecting their own training opportunities and developing training plans to meet their specific needs.

# **Program Goals & Objectives**

#### **Program Goals**

The overarching goal of the Durham VAMC training program is to provide generalist training to prepare interns for practice in clinical, research or academic settings. The importance of clinical practice that has its foundation in the science of psychology is stressed. The program formally integrates science and practice in a number of ways including didactic seminars on practice issues that are based on current empirical literature, required participation in research activities during the internship year, the use of empirically validated and supported assessment and clinical interventions, and encouragement and provision of administrative leave to attend scientific meetings. Our goals are consistent with the Durham VA Medical Center's mission to provide quality care to veterans while advancing state of the art services through research and education. Our program has seven primary goals.

#### Interns are expected to develop entry-level competency in the following core content areas:

- Psychological assessment
- Provision of psychological interventions
- Psychological consultation
- Theories and Methods of Supervision
- Scholarly Inquiry, Evaluation and Research

- Cultural and Individual Diversity
- Professional Development and Ethics

# The Program has four major components designed to accomplish these goals and objectives:

- 1. Experential Clinical Training
- 2. Didactic Training
- 3. Experiential training in research, evaluation and scholarly inquiry
- 4. Supervision and Mentoring.

# **Program Structure**

# **Program Structure**

The internship year is divided into six-month semesters for purposes of clinical rotation assignments. Each intern participates in two rotations per semester, and rotation assignments are based on consideration of both the intern's interests and identified training needs. Every effort is made to assign a set of clinical rotations that will balance the intern's interests with training needs to ensure a broad range of clinical experiences.

The required workweek generally ranges from 40-45 hours; however, interns who wish to pursue more ambitious research activities may work more than 45 hours. Clinically-related activities comprise approximately 70% of the intern's time each week. The remaining time is devoted to research, didactic training and administrative activities.

#### Research

Participation in research is required of interns throughout the year. One half-day each week (4 hours) of training time is reserved for research activities. Interns may join ongoing research efforts of a faculty member or develop an independent project under staff supervision. The Durham Medical Center is home to a vast network of research endeavors, many in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic (VISN 6) Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center (<a href="http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn6/">http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn6/</a>), Durham Center for Health Services in Primary Care (<a href="http://www.durham.hsrd.research.va.gov/">http://www.durham.hsrd.research.va.gov/</a>) and Duke University Medical Center. Psychology faculty have active research programs in areas including posttraumatic stress disorder, psychological assessment, smoking cessation, sleep disorders, and health services research, among others. In the second half of the year, interns are required to formally present their research to the Psychology faculty. Participation at professional meetings is encouraged, and professional development time (authorized absence) supports these activities.

#### **Supervision**

Supervision is critical to the internship training process in all areas, including clinical service delivery, consultation, research, and clinical supervision. The Durham VA Medical Center Internship Program consistently receives high marks from interns for the quantity and quality of supervision available to them. In addition to 4 hours of supervision each week, interns find staff available and open to unscheduled supervision sessions when needs arise.

#### **Evaluation**

Training needs/goals are elucidated through the development of individualized training plans, and progress is monitored through an ongoing liaison with the intern's graduate program. Quarterly competency assessments of intern performance help to direct and evaluate progress toward training goals. Competency assessments are shared with respective graduate programs.

#### Mentorship

Each intern selects a mentor for the training year. Mentors help the intern negotiate the internship program and develop post-internship goals. Generally, interns are encouraged to seek mentors who are not their clinical supervisors, in order to maximize the collaborative and *non*-evaluative aspects of this mentoring relationship.

# Training Experiences

#### **ROTATIONS**

#### **Acute Mental Health**

Psychology Faculty: Brandon Irvin, Ph.D. & Josh Tiegreen, Ph.D.

The Acute Mental Health rotation provides training on an acute inpatient psychiatric unit. The full spectrum of psychopathology and functional decline is assessed and treated in clinical settings. In addition, challenging ethical, social and legal issues are addressed as part of this clinical training experience. This rotation is particularly well-suited for interns interested in developing new skills and enhancing their proficiency in psychological and neuropsychological assessment. This rotation provides interns with exposure to patients experiencing the full range of acute and chronic serious mental illness. There are three primary components to this rotation: 1) individual psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery services including brief psychotherapy, 2) group therapy, and 3) assessment.

The Psychiatric Acute Recovery Center (PARC) offers a wide range of patients with acute psychiatric disorders and exacerbation of chronic disorders who are admitted to the inpatient psychiatry unit. Psychological services are provided on a consultation basis. Interns assume a significant role as members of the multidisciplinary treatment team, which provides many opportunities for growth and development of competence and professional identity. Interns gain experience in a number of treatment modalities including brief psychotherapy, group psychotherapy, and psycho-educational groups. Interns participate in interdisciplinary case conferences with patients and their families. In addition, interns develop clinical interviewing skills and receive extensive experience in objective psychological (MMPI-2, PAI) and neuropsychological screening / assessment. With this training, interns learn to identify a rationale for the assessment, construct a test battery, organize and report data, and answer referral questions.

#### **Addictions Treatment**

Psychology Faculty: J. Murray McNiel, Ph.D. & Amie R. Schry, Ph.D.

Substance Use Disorders Clinic (SUD Clinic) - The SUD Clinic provides outpatient services to Veterans diagnosed with substance use disorders. Many Veterans have additional mental health disorders, providing the opportunity to assess and treat individuals with complex psychological profiles. Many Veterans also have serious medical co-morbidities. The intern functions as a member of a multidisciplinary outpatient substance use disorder team providing psychological assessment and treatment. Assessment experiences include conducting evaluations in the SUD screening clinic, where the intern develops clinical interview skills needed to identify and assess the nature and severity of substance use disorders as well as other psychological, social, and health problems. The intern also has the opportunity to perform more comprehensive psychological assessment of Veterans with substance use disorders. The intern is able to develop group therapy skills with this population by co-leading/leading a weekly group, most commonly Relapse Prevention. The group emphasizes cognitive-behavioral skills to prevent relapse and, if relapse occurs, minimize its length and severity. In addition to this group treatment, the intern follows several cases individually. Given the heterogeneous nature of the clinic population and the high rate of co-occurring disorders, individual cases provide the opportunity to treat both SUD and co-occurring mental health problems. Overall, the SUD Clinic training experience emphasizes evidence-based treatments, drawing most strongly on cognitive-behavioral and motivational enhancement approaches. Among these is CBT-SUD, an evidence-based intervention that is part of the VA national EBP dissemination program. Dr. McNiel is a national consultant for this initiative.

Smoking Cessation Clinic – By co-leading/leading the Durham VA Smoking Cessation Clinic, which has been operational for over 30 years, the intern develops skills in evidence-based treatment of tobacco use disorders. This comprehensive group therapy program includes motivational enhancement, cognitive-

behavioral coping skills training, relapse prevention strategies, effective utilization of social support, and facilitation of pharmacotherapy (nicotine replacement therapy: patch, lozenge, gum; bupropion). The intern is able to participate in several cycles of this group intervention.

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[Note: Prior to 2015 – 2016, the *following* two rotations were offered as a <u>combined</u> Assessment\* rotation; however, the **Compensation and Pension** and **Neuropsychology** rotations are now offered as two distinct training opportunities. Interns may complete *one* of these rotations, *not both*.]

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### Assessment\* - Compensation and Pension

Psychology Faculty: Michael Griffin, Ph.D., ABPP (forensic), Stacey H. Kovac, Ph.D., Julia Messer, Ph.D., & Amy Mistler, Ph.D.

The Compensation and Pension (C&P) Unit provides training in psychological evaluations with Veterans from all war eras (OEF/OIF back to World War II). Evaluations include assessment of military-related trauma exposure, including combat and military sexual trauma, as well as any mental health issue that developed during military service (e.g., depression, anxiety, psychoses), and mental health issues that are a result of a medical condition, such as chronic pain. The assessments are designed to be thorough and standardized to ensure accurate assessment and care of our Veterans. Veterans may receive VA treatment and/or compensation based on these assessments. Interns will develop skills in diagnostic assessment through the use of clinical interviewing, a thorough review of all available medical and psychological records, and administration and interpretation of psychological testing. Interns will learn the art of report writing using software that is specifically designed for completion of C&P reports. The most common assessment request is for post-traumatic stress disorder; however interns will have opportunities to evaluate most DSM-5 disorders to include mood disorders, anxiety disorders, sleep problems, psychotic disorders, and psychological problems secondary to medical conditions.

## Assessment\* - Neuropsychology

Psychology Faculty: Saule Kulubekova, Ph.D. & Karen Tucker, Ph.D.

The *Neuropsychology Clinic* provides training in neuropsychological assessment in an outpatient setting. Referrals come from primary care, psychiatry, neurology, and other specialty clinics of the hospital. Common reasons for referral include concerns about neurocognitive and behavioral symptoms related to neurological, psychiatric, and other potentially contributing conditions and events (e.g., Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, Parkinson's disease, head trauma, stroke, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, brain tumors, neurodevelopmental disorders, substance use, mood disorders, and others). Through didactic and experiential training, interns will develop skills in the following competency areas: diagnostic interviews and neurocognitive status exams; design of flexible test batteries to address referral questions; neuropsychological test administration, scoring, and interpretation; preparation of evaluation reports; development of recommendations; and provision of feedback to patients. Consistent with the developmental training framework of the internship program, supervision typically progresses over the course of the rotation from a more didactic focus on specific clinical skill building to an increased focus on supporting the development of professional autonomy and clinical decision-making. Training expands the intern's existing knowledge base in brain-behavior relationship, psychopathology, and the neurosciences, and advances the intern's development as a scientist-practitioner.

#### Geropsychology

Psychology Faculty: Jessica Fulton, Ph.D. & Brea Salib, Ph.D.

Rehabilitation, Geriatric, Palliative, and Hospice Care. Rotation activities are primarily in the Durham VA Medical Center Community Living Center which is a 100 bed skilled nursing unit that provides medical rehabilitation, long-term residential care, palliative and hospice care, and a caregiver respite program. Patients must be eligible veterans requiring skilled nursing or intermediate care services. Patients with

# Geropsychology cont'd.

orthopedic injuries, cerebrovascular accidents, cancer, diabetes, and other medical and neurological conditions (e.g., multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injury) often present with co-morbid PTSD, depression, maladaptive personality traits, and coping behaviors that impact recovery. Interns gain a comprehensive understanding of factors influencing patients' physical and mental health in the context of physical illness/disability while working with an interdisciplinary team that includes medicine, psychology, psychiatry, pharmacy, social work, clinical nursing, primary care, dietetics, physical medicine, occupational therapy, physical therapy, recreational therapy, and restorative therapy. Clinical activities include psychotherapy, assessment, consultation, and program development.

Psychological Interventions: Individual, couples, family, and group psychotherapy; behavioral modification plans, behavioral medicine interventions. Cognitive, behavioral, and acceptance-based therapies used depending on presenting complaint and context. Reminiscence, dignity, and life review therapies also used in palliative and hospice care.

Psychological and Neuropsychological Assessment: Assessments conducted in response to staff consult requests to assess emotional functioning, adjustment to medical illness. Brief and indepth assessment of cognitive status including decisional capacity. Recommendations are made to large interdisciplinary team regarding treatment interventions and discharge options (e.g., behavioral plan for disruptive behavior, level of care required for least restrictive community).

Psychological Consultation: Weekly interdisciplinary team case presentations and individual case consultation.

*Program Development:* Interns are invited to develop programs (e.g., ACT group for depression, Illness Recovery groups for severe mental illness, cancer support group) based on intern interest and patient need.

## **Health Psychology**

Psychology Faculty: Teresa Fecteau, Ph.D. & Melanie Leggett, Ph.D.

The *Health Psychology* rotation allows the intern to gain experience in a wide range of behavioral medicine and health psychology activities. Interns on the Health Psychology rotation will conduct various types of pre-surgical evaluations (e.g., organ and stem cell transplant, gastric bypass, spinal cord stimulator), and will have opportunities to provide individual and group therapy services to a wide range of patient populations. Interns may provide clinical services within an Infectious Disease Clinic or Behavioral Sleep Medicine Clinic, as assigned.

Pre-Surgical Evaluations: Interns will conduct a variety of pre-surgical evaluations, to include assessment of transplant, bariatric, spinal cord stimulator, and possibly cochlear implant candidates. These evaluations are conducted in support of treatment decisions by the Veteran's specialty medical care team. During this process, Interns will interact with interdisciplinary teams, to include social workers, a transplant coordinator, medical providers, and the supervising psychologist. Interns perform psychological evaluations of potential surgery candidates, as well as family members (of transplant candidates), and living organ donors. The evaluations involve assessment of coping style, medical adherence/compliance, knowledge and expectations related to proposed procedure, substance use history, and psychopathology. Interns are expected to formulate specific recommendations regarding suitability for surgery, and recommendations for interventions or behavioral markers which should be met before a patient may be considered for surgery.

Psychotherapy Experiences (Group/Individual): Interns will have opportunities to gain experience in the cognitive-behavioral management of chronic pain and/or tinnitus in a group therapy treatment modality. The CBT for chronic pain treatment protocol used in this clinic was chosen by the VA to be disseminated pursuant to the evidence-based psychotherapy initiative. Interns may also carry a small caseload of

## Health Psychology cont'd.

individual therapy patients presenting with a wide range of complex and comorbid medical and psychological concerns.

Infectious Disease (ID) Clinic: Interns working in the ID clinic will learn about the psychological factors important in the functioning of patients with chronic illness, and gain clinical experience with individuals having specific medical problems. Interns will have the opportunity to work with an interdisciplinary outpatient primary care setting for patients carrying a diagnosis of HIV, or combined diagnoses (e.g., HIV, Hepatitis C, Hepatocellular Carcinoma). Interns will conduct initial intake assessments of new patients for the clinic, and will carry several individual therapy cases. In addition to psychologists, the interdisciplinary team includes ID physicians, nurses, a social worker, a psychiatrist, and a pharmacist. Interns will gain experience working with an HIV+ outpatient population with comorbid medical diagnoses (e.g., diabetes, hypertension) in addition to psychiatric disorders (e.g., depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and PTSD).

Behavioral Sleep Medicine Clinic (BSM Clinic): Interns working in the BSM Clinic will be trained in behavioral medicine approaches to a variety of sleep disorders, such as insomnia, nightmares, and sleep apnea. Interns will employ Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBTI) to address the insomnia complaints of Veterans, and will utilize graded exposure therapy to facilitate adherence to sleep apnea treatment in Veterans who are experiencing claustrophobia with positive airway pressure therapy. Interns will also gain experience with Imagery Rehearsal Therapy for nightmares. Primarily group-based treatment approaches are employed on this rotation. Interns will also learn diagnostic systems for sleep disorders and conduct clinical sleep evaluations.

#### Intern Hours

Clinic/Activity	Hours	Supervisor
Pre-Surgical Evaluations	8	Fecteau
Psychotherapy (Group and/or Individual)	4	Fecteau
BSM and/or ID Clinic (minor experiences)	4	Leggett / Fecteau

# Operation Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom/New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND) Clinic Psychology Faculty: Sara Boeding, Ph.D., Jay Gregg, Ph.D., & Lotus Meshreki, Ph.D.

The OEF/OIF/OND Program includes a multidisciplinary team (Psychology, Psychiatry, Social Work Case managers, Nursing Case Managers, Speech-Pathology, Neurology) devoted to comprehensive care of veterans returning from ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan with physical, cognitive, and/or mentalhealth related concerns. Psychology faculty focus on delivering empirically supported assessment and treatments for common post-deployment concerns such as PTSD, depression, and other anxiety disorders in individual and group modalities. Interns will have the opportunity to obtain specialty training and practice in empirically-supported PTSD treatments (i.e., Cognitive Processing Therapy and Prolonged Exposure). OEF/OIF Veterans typically exhibit complex presentations including multiple diagnoses (e.g., PTSD with comorbid depression and SUD), and treatment often includes accommodation for medical comorbidities and cognitive seguela associated with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Additional potential training opportunities include full-model Dialetical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) for individuals with complex presentations including emotion regulation deficits and related segualae; Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Depression (ACT); or Cognitive-Behavioral Couples Therapy (CBCT) for PTSD. Should Interns elect to engage in DBT training, they will be fully-integrated into the DBT team, engaging in DBT consultation, providing individual DBT therapy, and co-facilitating DBT Skills groups. Supervisors: Drs. Sara Boeding, Jay Gregg, and Lotus Meshreki.

# **Outpatient Mental Health Clinic**

Psychology Faculty: Tracey Carson, Ph.D., Jeffrey D. White, Ph.D., & Josh Tiegreen, Ph.D.

The *Outpatient Mental Health* rotation provides an opportunity for a comprehensive training experience in a general outpatient mental health clinic, where interns can develop treatment-intervention skills across a full range of clinical problems and psychopathology. Primary responsibilities include:

- Diagnostic/personality evaluations with well-articulated case formulation;
- · Evidence-based individual and couple psychotherapies;
- Developing proficiency with group interventions
- Consultation with a multidisciplinary treatment team.

More intensive training experiences are available, including an Anger-Management Program (a 3-part group series) or a Couples-Therapy Program tailored for the impact of combat, deployment, or betrayal (Integrative Behavioral Couple Therapy with selective additions from other evidence-based protocols).

From the intern's perspective, the MH rotation provides an opportunity to refine conceptual, diagnostic, and psychotherapy skills with complicated and puzzling cases. Referrals to this rotation typically involve patients with multiple diagnoses and complex problem combinations, including, but not limited to: depression, panic, OCD, mood and anxiety dysregulation, PTSD, personality disorders, problematic anger and aggression, couple/marital conflict, acute psychological distress, psychosis, and sexual dysfunction. Because of the complexity and diversity of cases, the intern has an excellent opportunity to refine the timing and delivery of psychotherapy interventions in the context of multifaceted challenges. Therapy plans incorporate empirically-supported treatment protocols, acute crisis management, brief psychotherapies, positive-psychology interventions, psychoeducational programs, and occasionally, more extended dynamic interventions.

# **Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT)**

Psychology Faculty: Kate Berlin, Ph.D., ABPP, Carolina Clancy, Ph.D., ABPP, Jay Gregg, Ph.D., & Rachel Ruffin, Ph.D.

The PTSD Clinical Team is a specialized outpatient clinic comprised of a multi-disciplinary team including Psychiatry, Psychology, Social Work, Chaplain Services, Peer Support, and Nursing that provides comprehensive outpatient services including assessment and treatment to both men and women Veterans of all eras with military-related PTSD. A significant component of the training will also include provision of clinical services to recent returnees from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan who may also present with comorbid Traumatic Brain Injury. Interns will have the opportunity to gain specialized training and practice in the delivery of evidence based treatments for PTSD [e.g., individual Prolonged Exposure (PE) therapy, individual and group Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT or CPT-C)]. In addition, other empirically supported treatments for substance use disorder (Seeking Safety, Integrated Smoking Cessation), emotion regulation (DBT Skills Training), insomnia (CBT for Insomnia), relationship difficulties secondary to PTSD [Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Couples Therapy for PTSD (CBCT-PTSD)], integrated treatment for chronic pain and PTSD, and experiential avoidance [Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)] are employed. Interns will also be trained in conducting PTSD diagnostic evaluations including the use of the Clinician Administered PTSD-Scale for DSM-5 (CAPS-5) and a variety of objective assessment strategies including the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI). The doctoral level staff members are actively involved in clinical research activities and are recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs as providers of PE and CPT. Two rotation supervisors are VA trainers/consultants in evidence-based therapies for PTSD.

### Women's Health Clinic

Psychology Faculty: Kelly Caron, PhD & Dina Kinner, PhD

As a member of the Women's Health Clinic - Mental Health team, the intern provides mental health services to women veterans, with an emphasis on increasing competence in the assessment and treatment of complex presentations. Typical referrals in the Women's Health Clinic are women with chronic and co-morbid mental health conditions resulting from multiple and repeated traumatic exposures that have not responded to earlier trials of intervention. Often referrals require a multidisciplinary, multiphasic approach to treatment. The intern will develop an understanding of the impact of military sexual trauma (MST) and other traumatic life experiences, including childhood abuse, domestic violence, and combat, on women veterans' psychosocial functioning. The intern will assess and treat a variety of comorbid psychiatric disorders including PTSD, anxiety disorders (e.g., Panic and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders), depression, substance abuse, eating disorders, and Borderline Personality Disorder. The intern will be exposed to numerous modalities of treatment including evidence-based treatment for PTSD (e.g., Cognitive Processing Therapy and Prolonged Exposure), Skills Training for Affective and Interpersonal Regulation/Narrative Story Telling (STAIR/NST), and will participate in the Clinic's full-model Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) program. As a DBT Team member, interns will provide individual DBT and phone coaching, will co-facilitate the DBT Skills Group and attend weekly DBT peer consultation team meetings. In addition to face-to-face clinical care, the intern will function as part of our multidisciplinary mental health team (comprised of psychology, social work, psychiatry, chaplaincy, and recreational therapy) and will consult and collaborate with medical providers in the Women's Health Clinic.

#### **DIDACTIC TRAINING and SEMINARS**

Time is reserved each week for several seminar series designed to provide greater breadth and depth to each intern's training. These include:

#### **General Topics Seminar Series**

The Durham VAMC Psychology Training Program includes weekly didactic training for interns, including a one hour seminar on rotating topics (taught by both Staff Psychologists and visiting faculty). Each intern class is solicited for particular interests and the Education Coordinator attempts to secure experts on suggested topics. Examples of topics covered in the didactic seminars include Evidenced Based Therapies, Motivational Interviewing, Marital Therapy, Psychopharmacology, Anger Management, and Forensic Psychology among others. These didactic seminars aim to provide interns with enhanced training in the areas of assessment and diagnosis, effective intervention, empirically supported treatments, consultation, supervision, scholarly inquiry, and diversity. A more in-depth explanation of several key areas promoted by the lecture series is presented below.

#### Supervision Series

A series of lectures on theories and methods of supervision is provided. This series is designed to orient interns to challenges and goals in providing supervision to trainees in the field of psychology. Topics covered include ethics in supervision (including dual relationships), an exploration of empirical support for various supervisory practices, comparison of supervisory styles arising from various theoretical orientations, best practices in supervision, and resolution of problems arising in supervisory relationships. The lecture series also serves as a platform for interns to discuss most and least beneficial supervisory practices that they have encountered throughout their graduate careers.

#### **Ethics Series**

Continuing education in the field of ethics is a core goal of the Intern Lecture Series. Several lectures on ethics are offered including Health Care Ethics, Geropsychology (addressing ethical issues in palliative care), a series of lectures entitled "Psychological Practice, Business Realities, Ethical Considerations," and Court Testimony (addressing ethical issues in legal matters). These lectures are

offered by both Staff Psychologists and visiting faculty to educate interns about ethical issues in a variety of areas of clinical practice. Additionally, Dr. Erica Wise, Professor of Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an expert on legal and ethical issues in psychology, and consultant to the NC Psychology Board, provides an intensive lecture concerning ethical requirements for clinical psychologists. These seminars are offered in a variety of formats, including case discussions, multimedia presentations (e.g., videos of court testimony), and debates of ethical issues. Interns are encouraged to present ethical concerns arising in their training experiences.

#### **Diversity Series**

The Psychology Internship Program places a major emphasis on training in cultural sensitivity and issues of individual and cultural diversity in clinical practice. These seminars focus on recognizing issues of individual and cultural diversity, acknowledging these issues in a professional context, coping with personal biases and stereotypes, and effective practice with culturally diverse populations. The seminars are taught from an experiential perspective and interns are involved in role plays, case discussions, and other activities that promote self-reflection and interactive learning.

#### **Professional Development Series**

A series of seminars are focused on professional development issues including preparing to find a job in professional psychology. Topics include preparing curriculum vitae, interviewing skills, preparing job talks, and negotiating offers. Additional seminars focus on preparing for professional licensure and early academic careers.

#### **Clinical Care Series**

This is a yearlong weekly series that covers clinical cases, assessment, and evidence based practices. This series is required during the internship year. Interns and faculty discuss a variety of clinical issues including but not limited to assessment and therapeutic procedures, complex cases, and discussion and feedback about using evidence based psychotherapies with diverse populations, etc. Each intern will lead a discussion later in the training year.

#### **Grand Rounds**

The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University Medical Center sponsors Grand Rounds on a weekly basis. Guest speakers include both psychologists and psychiatrists, most with national reputations in their area of expertise. While interns are not required to attend Grand Rounds, attendance provides exposure to a broad base of knowledge from preeminent scholars.

# Requirements for Completion

Interns are provided with performance criteria for each rotation and an evaluation form that reflects the expectations regarding clinical competencies an intern should be attaining. In addition to ensuring a minimum of 2080 hours of training experience, interns must achieve competency ratings equivalent to "Intermediate" in all competency areas of the rotations completed, while higher levels are typical of Durham interns.

In addition to developing clinical competencies, maintaining good standing within the program also necessitates certain levels of professional behavior. Interns are expected to appear and conduct themselves as professionals. Veterans and staff shall be treated with dignity and respect. The APA ethical guidelines and HIPPA regulations will be strictly adhered to, especially in matters of confidentiality of information, non-exploitation of patients and avoiding conflicts of interests. Additionally, interns are responsible for conforming to all other Medical Center and Office of Personnel Management regulations concerning conduct and behavior.

# Facility and Training Resources

#### **Resources and Benefits**

Many resources are available as a part of the training programs. We enjoy a highly committed and accomplished psychology faculty, other program faculty (e.g., psychiatry, nursing), and Mental Health Service Line leaders who are actively involved in our training programs. In addition to the general training venues, trainees are involved throughout the hospital in various programs such as Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Hematology-Oncology, Gerontology, etc. These training opportunities provide a rich environment for interprofessional training, consultation, and leadership. Trainees can expect to have office space assigned during their training tenure. Networked desktop computers, equipped with the current VA-adopted version of MS Office Professional, are provided to support patient care, word processing, and internet access for literature and other search services. Testing materials and reference resources are provided for trainees' use. Our excellent Medical Center Library has a wide array of materials including professional journals and books. In addition, trainees have access to a full range of library resources at the Duke University School of Medicine and a variety of other online library resources.

# Administrative Policies and Procedures

Due process and grievance procedures are available upon request from Keith.Shaw@va.gov.

**Self Disclosure -** Consistent with the APA Code of Ethics (2010), see 7.04 below, our Durham VA Medical Center Psychology Training Program does not require interns to disclose personal information in the context of their training, unless the supervisor feels that such personal information is needed in order to evaluate or obtain assistance for a trainee whose personal problems are preventing them from performing professional activities competently or whose problems are posing a threat to the trainee or others.

7.04 Psychologists do not require students or supervisees to disclose personal information in course- or program-related activities, either orally or in writing, regarding sexual history, history of abuse and neglect, psychological treatment, and relationships with parents, peers, and spouses or significant others except if (1) the program or training facility has clearly identified this requirement in its admissions and program materials or (2) the information is necessary to evaluate or obtain assistance for students whose personal problems could reasonably be judged to be preventing them from performing their training- or professionally related activities in a competent manner or posing a threat to the students or others.

Our privacy policy is clear: we will collect no personal information about you when you visit our website.

# **Training Staff**

R. Keith Shaw, Ph.D., Director, Psychology Training Programs

University of Missouri-St. Louis, 1984

Additional VA Duties: Senior Psychologist; Associate Director - Clinical Core / Mid-Atlantic (VISN6) MIRECC

Special Interests: Community Psychology; Barriers to Care for Returning Veterans (OEF-OIF)

Email: Keith.Shaw@va.gov

Kate Berlin, Ph.D., ABPP, Vanderbilt University, 2008

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, PTSD Clinic, Substance Abuse Outpatient Clinic.

Special Interests: women's health, military sexual trauma, complex PTSD, PTSD/substance abuse comorbidity. Prolonged Exposure (P.E.) consultant (VA EBP Dissemination)

comorbidity. I foldinged Exposure (1.2.) consultant (VA EDI Dissemination

Sara Boeding, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2013

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, OEF/OIF Clinic

Special Interests: Evidence Based Psychotherapies for PTSD, Couples Therapy, complex PTSD, DBT

#### Tracey P. Carson, Ph.D., University of Georgia, 1982

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, Outpatient Mental Health Clinic

Faculty Appointment: Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University

**Medical Center** 

Special Interests: PTSD, sexual dysfunction, interpersonal approaches to complex clinical problems

#### Carolina P. Clancy, Ph.D., ABPP, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2003

VA Duties: Staff Staff Psychologist, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Program, Evidence Based Psychotherapy Coordinator

Faculty Appointment: Research Associate in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University Medical Center

Special Interests: assessment and treatment of PTSD; evidence based treatment

#### Teresa E. Fecteau, Ph.D., University of Maine, 2007

VA Duties: Health Psychologist; Member DVAMC interdisciplinary pain management committee and Wellness / WIN committee.

Faculty Appointment: Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Behavioral Medicine, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC.

Special Interests: Health behavior promotion; Obesity treatment and prevention; Behavioral cardiology; Exercise and stress reactivity; Behavioral interventions for improved medical compliance

# Jessica J. Fulton, Ph.D., University of Southern Mississippi, 2012

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, Community Living Center Short-term Rehabilitation and Long-term Care & Palliative and Hospice Care

Special Interests: Health behavior promotion in medically ill populations; Impact of psychopathology and trauma on physical health and rehabilitation outcomes; Risk factors for disability and chronic illness and associated prevention strategies; Health services research; Patient Advocacy; End-of-Life Issues

#### Cindy D. Greenlee, Ph.D., Duke University, 2009

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist and local Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI) Coordinator. Special Interests: PC-MHI, Behavioral Medicine, Health Psychology.

# Jay Gregg, Ph.D., West Virginia University, 2014

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Clinic and OEF-OIF-OND Clinic . Special Interests: Assessment and treatment of posttraumatic stress, depression, hopelessness, and suicidality across the life-span; Clinical geropsychology; Contextual behavioral science.

#### Michael P. Griffin, Ph.D., ABPP, University of Alabama, 2007

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, Compensation and Pension Program

Faculty Appointment: Adjunct Professor, Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling,

Department of Allied Health Sciences, UNC - Chapel Hill

Special Interests: Psychological Assessment, Forensic Psychology (Criminal / Civil)

# Rachel Hibberd, Ph.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis, 2013

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, PTSD Clinic, SUD Clinic, and DBT Program.

Special Interests: Contextual behavioral therapies (ACT and DBT), PTSD, treatment of complex trauma sequelae, moral injury

#### R. Brandon Irvin, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2012

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, Psychiatric Acute Rehabilitation Center (PARC) and Mental Health Access Center

Special Interests: Psychosocial rehabilitation & recovery, acute mental health, positive psychology, assessment, general mental health, brief psychotherapy.

## Dina G. Kinner, Ph.D., Temple University, 2014.

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, Women's Health Clinic and Access Center.

Special Interests: Anxiety and trauma-related disorders, military sexual trauma, complex PTSD, social anxiety, evidence based treatment, CBT, DBT

### Stacey H. Kovac, Ph.D., University of Southern Mississippi, 2001

VA Duties: Mental Health Lead Clinician, Compensation and Pension Program

Faculty Appointment: Assistant Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University

**Medical Center** 

Special Interests: Psychological Assessment, Behavioral Medicine

#### Saule Kulubekova, Ph.D., Emory University, 2012

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, Neuropsychology Clinic

Special Interests: Neuropsychological assessment, health psychology

### Melanie K. Leggett, Ph.D., C.B.S.M., University of Memphis, 2001

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, Consultant on the VA roll-out of CBT for Insomnia

Faculty Appointment: Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University Medical Center

Special Interests: Behavioral sleep medicine, adherence to treatment for sleep apnea, psychiatric factors and treatment adherence in sleep apnea

#### Lotus Meshreki, Ph.D., University of Rhode Island, 2007

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, OIF-OEF-OND and MHC Clinics with a focus on providing EBTs to OIF-OEF-OND veterans

Special Interests: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Prolonged Exposure (PE), Motivational Interviewing (MI), Behavioral Medicine/Chronic Pain

#### Julia M. Messer, Ph.D., West Virginia University, 2008

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, Compensation and Pension Program

Special Interests: Forensic Assessment, Psychological Assessment, CBT, Mindfulness, Anger Management

# Amy K. Mistler, Ph.D., Arizona State University, 2010

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, Compensation and Pension Program

Special Interests: Psychological Assessment, PTSD

# Murray McNiel, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2007

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, Substance Abuse Outpatient Program

Special Interests: Substance abuse treatment

# Rachel Ruffin, Ph.D., University of Miami, 2011

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, PTSD Clinic.

Special Interests: Evidence Based Treatments for PTSD, comorbid PTSD and chronic illness, Behavioral Medicine/Chronic Pain.

# Brea Salib, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2008

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, Community Living Center & Home Based Primary Care; Consultant on the national dissemination of the STAR-VA program

Special Interests: Geropsychology, non-pharmacological approaches to managing challenging dementiarelated behaviors (STAR-VA program), cognitive assessment, capacity, end-of-life issues

#### Amie Schry, Ph.D., Virginia Tech, 2014

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, Intensive Outpatient and General Outpatient Programs for Substance Use Disorders

Faculty Appointment: Medical Instructor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University School of Medicine

Special Interests: Assessment and treatment of substance use disorders; anxiety and health risk behaviors; trauma; sexual victimization; cognitive behavioral treatments

# Joshua A. Tiegreen, Ph.D., University of Tulsa, 2009

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, Mental Health Clinic

Special Interests: Psychological Assessment, Serious Mental Illness, Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Recovery

### Karen Tucker, Ph.D., Louisiana State University, 2002

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, OEF/OIF/OND Neuropsychology Clinic, Neuropsychology Clinic (general) Special Interests: Cognitive decline associated with traumatic brain injury or degenerative disorders

#### Christi S. Ulmer, Ph.D., University of Louisville, 2006

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist; Consultant / VA dissemination program – CBT for Insomnia Faculty Appointment: Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University Medical Center

Special Interests: Sleep Disturbance in Veterans with PTSD, Sleep and Health, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Behavioral Medicine in Primary Care settings, Mindfulness and Meditation-Based approaches to Mental Health

#### Jeffrey D. White, Ph.D., University of South Carolina, 2003

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, Outpatient Mental Health Clinic & Raleigh Community Based Outpatient Clinic

Special Interests: Behavioral medicine and health psychology, Anger Management, Professional development issues

#### **Adjunct Faculty:**

# Jean C. Beckham, Ph.D., Florida State University, 1988

VA Duties :VA Senior Research Career Scientist, Consulting Psychologist to Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Program

Faculty Appointment: Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (Medical Psychology), Duke University Medical Center

Special Interests: behavioral assessment and treatment of PTSD, clinical research in PTSD, behavioral medicine

# Jason E. Bonner, Ph.D., University of Louisville, 2010

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, Primary Care – Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI)

Special Interests: Health Psychology / Behavioral Medicine with specific interests in type 2 diabetes regimen adherence, chronic hepatitis C treatment, social-cognitive factors in lifestyle behavior modification, management of co-occurring medical and psychological disorders, and integrated models of healthcare delivery

# **Seamus Bhatt-Mackin, M.D.,** Northwestern University School of Medicine, 2004; General Adult Psychiatry Residency, Duke University Medical Center, 2008

VA Duties: Staff Psychiatrist in OEF/OIF/OND Clinic, Psychiatric Emergency Clinic and Mental Health Clinic; Psychiatry resident supervision in multiple settings for medication management and psychotherapy

Faculty Appointment: Clinical Associate, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University School of Medicine

Special Interests: PTSD Psychotherapy, Group Psychotherapy, Psychotherapy Training and Supervision

## Mira Brancu, PhD, The Catholic University of America, 2009

VA Duties: Deputy Director, Mid-Atlantic VA Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center (VISN 6 MIRECC)

Faculty Appointment: Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University School of Medicine

Special Interests: post-deployment mental health; self-care, burnout, and compassion fatigue of trauma providers; women veterans

# Patrick S. Calhoun, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, 1998

VA Duties: VISN 6 MIRECC Health Services Research Core

Faculty Appointment: Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (Medical Psychology),

**Duke University Medical Center** 

Special Interests: PTSD, psychological assessment

#### Ashlee C. McGrath, Ph.D., University of South Florida, 2010

VA Duties: Staff Psychologist, Primary Care Mental Health Integration.

Special Interests: Engagement and access to mental health services among veterans in primary care settings. Assessment and interdisciplinary treatment of posttraumatic psychopathology and co-occurring substance use disorders.

# Internship Graduates

#### **First Positions Post-Internship**

#### Class of 2015

Post-doctoral Fellow, Trauma Recovery, Durham VAMC

Post-doctoral Fellow, Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Durham VAMC

Post-doctoral Fellow, GRECC Advanced Geriatric Research, Durham VAMC

Post-doctoral Fellow, VA Boston Healthcare System

Post-doctoral Fellow, PTSD research (Dr. Resick), Duke University

Post-doctoral Fellow, Integrative Medicine, Duke University

Post-doctoral Fellow, Brown University/Providence VAMC

Post-doctoral Fellow, PCMHI, VA Salt Lake City HCS

# Class of 2014

Post-doctoral Fellow, Trauma Recovery, Durham VAMC

Post-doctoral Fellow, Trauma Recovery, Durham VAMC

Post-doctoral Fellow, Trauma Recovery, Durham VAMC

Post-doctoral Fellow, MIRT/MIRECC (research), Durham VAMC

Post-doctoral Fellow, VA Boston Healthcare System

Post-doctoral Fellow, Suicide risk (research), Catholic University Post-doctoral Fellow, PTSD research (Dr. Resick), Duke University

Post-doctoral Fellow, Psychosocial Rehabilitation, VA San Diego Healthcare System

### Class of 2013

Post-doctoral Fellow, Trauma Recovery, Durham VAMC

Post-doctoral Fellow, Trauma Recovery, Durham VAMC

Post-doctoral Fellow, Trauma Recovery, Durham VAMC

Post-doctoral Fellow, PTSD, VISN 6 MIRECC

Post-doctoral Fellow, Neuropsychology, Salisbury VAMC

Post-doctoral Fellow, Serious Mental Illness, Stanford University

#### Class of 2012

Post-doctoral Fellow, PTSD, Durham VAMC Post-doctoral Fellow, PTSD, VISN 6 MIRECC

Post-doctoral Fellow, Wake Forest University School of Medicine

Post-doctoral Fellow, Substance Use, Tucson VAMC

Post-doctoral Fellow, Clinical Psychology, Brown University

Post-doctoral Fellow, Oliver-Pyatt Center, Eating Disorders Treatment Center

#### Class of 2011

Post-doctoral Fellow, PTSD, Durham VAMC Post-doctoral Fellow, PTSD, Salem VAMC

Post-doctoral Fellow, CBT, Cognitive Behavioral Institute of Albuquerque Post-doctoral Fellow, CBT, Beck Institute of Cognitive Behavior Therapy

Assistant Professor, Psychology, Elon University

#### Class of 2010

Post-doctoral Fellow, PTSD, Durham VAMC Post-doctoral Fellow, PSR, Palo alto VAMC

Post-doctoral Fellow, Duke University Medical Center

Post-doctoral Fellow, MIRECC, Durham VAMC

Post-doctoral Fellow, Private Practice

Psychologist, Psychiatric Hospital, North Dakota

#### Class of 2009

Post-doctoral Fellow, PTSD, Durham VAMC Post-doctoral Fellow, PTSD, Durham VAMC Post-doctoral Fellow, MIRECC, Durham VAMC Research Associate, MIRECC, DurhamVAMC

# Class of 2008

Post-doctoral Fellow, PTSD, Durham VAMC Post-doctoral Fellow, PTSD, Durham VAMC

Post-doctoral Fellow, Palliative Care, VA Palo Alto Health Care System

Global Project Director, Quintiles Transnational Corporation

# Local Information

The VA Medical Center is located in Durham, North Carolina, adjacent to the Duke University Medical Center and the Duke University campus. Durham is situated in north central North Carolina, midway between the Atlantic Coast and the Blue Ridge Mountains. From this location, both beach and mountain resort areas are within easy driving distance, offering opportunities for skiing weekends in the winter and day trips to the beach during warmer seasons. As part of North Carolina's famed "Research Triangle," Durham is a community that offers a wide variety of recreational and cultural diversions. Art festivals, theaters, clubs, dance festivals, and concerts are all locally available. Excellent restaurants, museums, markets, and botanical gardens are also located in the Triangle area. For sports enthusiasts, the Durham area offers wonderful golf courses, Durham Bulls minor league baseball, amateur sports leagues, and a multitude of athletic clubs. The area claims some of the finest collegiate athletics in the country: Duke, North Carolina State in Raleigh, and the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill are often national leaders in basketball and a number of other collegiate sports.

Durham, Raleigh, and Chapel Hill have unique personalities and resources, all within easy access of the Medical Center. From the college town atmosphere of Chapel Hill, the friendly neighborhoods in Durham, and the metropolitan feel of Raleigh, a wide variety of affordable housing options are readily available. Interns have chosen homes in cozy older neighborhoods, lofts in refurbished warehouses, as well as in modern complexes and developments.

Travel to and from the Durham area is facilitated by a number of major highways. The Raleigh-Durham (RDU) Airport allows for easy access to and from other major metropolitan areas. Candidates traveling from certain cities may also find that the airport in Charlotte (CLT) has the advantage of being a major hub for various airlines. However, other modes of transportation, including major bus and train lines, are available. Applicants invited to interview at the Durham VAMC are provided directions to the Medical Center and other information for visitors to the Triangle.

We hope to see your internship application in the coming days...!!! And, for those of you who attend ISTSS, ABCT, and other professional conferences, please join us and say hello at networking events.

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